

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Jasper Economic Development Commission**

August 14, 2013

The Jasper Economic Development Commission met on Thursday, August 14, 2013 in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 610 Main Street. Notice was given in compliance with Indiana's Open Meeting Law.

CALL TO ORDER

President Andrew Seger called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

President Andrew Seger	present
Vice President Jim Skillman	present
Secretary Mark Schmidt	present
Member Robert Whitten	present
Member Ray Snowden	absent
Also present:	
Renee Kabrick - Commission's Attorney	
Kathy Pfister – Recording Secretary	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice President Jim Skillman made a motion to approve the Commission's minutes from their June 13, 2013 meeting as presented. Secretary Mark Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0. There was no July meeting due to any business at hand.

ADVANCED FURNITURE TESTING – PERSONAL PROPERTY- NEW BUSINESS

Doug Woodard, President of Advanced Furniture Testing, presented a power point on a tax-abatement application for a new business to be located in the City of Jasper; proposed location – 755 East 13th Street. The main office, which is located in Holland, Michigan, started in 2007 for furniture testing of office, healthcare, education and hospitality furniture. The company also engineers and builds custom test machines. With 50 years of testing experience, Advanced Furniture Testing has been expanding since 2007, from 5,000 square feet to its present 20,000 square-foot facility and is currently continuing to expand.

Mr. Woodard said the proposed location in Jasper would cut down greatly on shipping costs since there is presently no local lab. The company's proposal is to bring a small lab into Jasper to serve former component suppliers such as Jasper Group, OFS and Kimball and will hopefully be able to do more business in the area. The company is very environmentally friendly. It uses electric servo-powered machines that are extremely efficient. The machines only use enough power to perform the task at hand. In addition, the company also recycles everything – plastic, paper, steel and aluminum, styro-foam, wood and cardboard, allowing for a minimal amount of refuse. There will be three jobs added; an Operations Manager- \$55,000/year; a Senior Testing Project Manager- \$40,000/year and an Associate Testing Project Manager- \$30,000/year.

As the business grows, there will be raises and new hires. There will be installation of 10 test stations, several pieces of equipment/fixtures and IT/office equipment worth \$220,000. In conclusion, Mr. Woodard said the growing company is looking forward to serving Jasper for years to come.

Following Advanced Furniture Testing's presentation and further discussion, the Board scored the following evaluation criteria:

• New Investment in Property and Equipment: (100,000 - \$249,999)	<u>Points</u> 10
• New employment: number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs (3-5 new FTE)	5
• New employment wage level:% above state minimum wage (250% of state minimum wage - \$18.25)	29
• Infrastructure requirements already in place:	
Adequate road	2
Water	2
Wastewater	2
Electric Service	2
Gas	2
Total base points (out of 100)	54
• Targeted business bonus points (*Targeted businesses include those in Measuring, Testing & Navigational Instrument Manufacturing, Specialty Food Manufacturing, Durable Goods/Wholesaling/Distribution, Specialty Manufacturers such as medical, athletic, game, toy & children's vehicle manufacturing, and Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center Vendors (as identified in the Dubois County Area Development Corporation's most recent Business Target Recommendations for Dubois County) <i>President Seger said the application is specific to testing, which is one of the five categories listed above.</i>	5
• Utilizes 'green' technology	2
• Use of existing vacant structure	5
• Offers Employer-sponsored health and wellness benefits	2
• Offers Employer-sponsored retirement plan	2
• Community Involvement	1
• Use of local suppliers/contractors in construction/operation of project	1
• Offers mentoring/internship program	0
Total bonus points	18
Total points possible with bonus points (120)	Final Score 72

Bob Whitten made a motion to recommend that the Common Council adopt the presented tax phase-in score sheet and local guidelines, resulting in an 8-year abatement for Advanced Furniture Testing with an 8-year time period and schedule as follows: Years 1-5 – 100%, Year 6– 75%, Year 7 – 50% and Year 8 – 25%. Mark Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

After some discussion among the Board, a **motion** was made by Vice President Skillman and seconded by President Seger to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 4-0, and the meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Andrew M. Seger, President

ATTEST:

Mark R. Schmidt, Secretary